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## BRIEF MENTION.

Students of the modern languages, and particularly those interested in the study of dialects, will find great attractions in the catalogue of the library of the late Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte (London: Henry Sotheran & Co. Price, One Guinea). Its compiler, Mr. Victor Collins, modestly terms his work an "Attempt at a Catalogue," and apologizes for errors of statement or classification, which may have been made in carrying out his laborious undertaking. For he asserts that to prepare a perfect catalogue of the library would require "several years' work for many experts." Mr. Collins has selected for his list some 13,699 numbers, which represent many more volumes, since sets and periodicals are included under one heading for each series. Some 11 numbers represent the scant amount of works on the Chinese and Tibetan languages and 66 comprise the books on African, Malay and Asiatic polyglot tongues. But with the various divisions of the Finnic dialects the list expands, and 569 numbers give an idea of their extent and variety. The Basque, to which the Prince was especially devoted, claims 713 titles; 200 more are allotted to the American, Sub-Arctic; Circassian and Semitic; and 1050 to the Aryan dialects of the East. With the Italic branch of the Aryan the richness of the collection begins to be manifest. Under the Neo-Latin languages are enumerated no less than 4291 titles, of which some 900 represent Italian dialects, and 500 more Italian in general. 1400 titles convey an idea of the amount of special works on Celtic, 2300 of the various Teutonic languages, of which Frisian claims 300, some 1500 of English, of which about 700 are absorbed by modern dialects, and the remaining 1200 describe that side of the library which relates to Slavonian, Lettic and other Aryan idioms. Criticism of the classification is entirely disarmed by the preface of the author, and, indeed, would be out of place when the labor of compiling and the purpose of the catalogue—to get a purchaser—is taken into consideration.

## OBITUARY.

## JOHAN FRITZNER.

By the death of Dr. Johan Fritzner, which occurred on December 10, 1893, Scandinavia has lost its most eminent lexicographer. He was born on a farm near Bergen, Norway, April 9, 1812. In 1828 he entered the University of Christiania, where he studied theology, although his chief interest was already philology, especially that of his mother tongue. After teaching for several years in Bergen, he became pastor at Vadsö, a village in Finmarken, where he was brought into close contact with the Lapps and Finns and of whose language he made himself a perfect master. It is related that he was able to preach fluently in the three languages of the district. While at Vadsö, Fritzner made his first appearance in print (1846), in a review of Stockfleth's 'Grammatik i det Lappiske Sprog.' In the same year he published an original study of the archæology of Finmarken, which may be regarded as the first step in this branch of research. His last contribution to the study of the Lapps is contained in Friis' 'Lexicon lapponicum' (1887). In the interval his activity was very great, finding expression in critical reviews, monographs, etc.

By the middle of this century the revival of interest in the study of Old Norse literature had resulted in a great collection of texts, published for the most part in Copenhagen and Christiania, the usefulness of which was vastly impaired by the absence of any complete dictionary of the language. Realizing this, the leading Old Norse scholars of Norway resolved to remedy the defect, and feeling that Fritzner was the one man of all others for the task, they requested him to undertake it. With characteristic modesty he at first refused, but in 1860 he finally began in earnest and two years later the first part appeared, the next being completed in 1867. For an account of the importance of this dictionary and the changes and improvements introduced in the second edition, of which the twenty-second part (to *skapstórr*) was published before its author's death, see MOD. LANG. NOTES vi, 8, p. 248. It is surely not out of place to mention in this brief notice of Dr. Fritzner, that his interest in language studies was never allowed to interfere with the duties of his profession, and that while he is known to the world chiefly as a diligent and incisive investigator, his memory is also cherished by his countrymen for his faithfulness and skill as a parish priest. For the materials of this account I am indebted to the sympathetic sketch in the last number of the *Arkiv för Nordisk Filologi*, written by the friend of its subject, Dr. Gustav Storm.

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